

In the News

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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Message from the Mayor

"Especially in times of crisis, we must not lose sight of our goals for young people in the District. We must help them have a safe passage through the adolescent years with school success; good health habits; and, above all, a chance to enjoy their teen years without the pressures of parenthood that far exceed their limited resources."

When I made this statement in 1999, many across the city encouraged me to follow it up with a full court press on teen pregnancy prevention. On February 14, with the District's teen pregnancy rate on the rise after several years of impressive declines, I did just that. With the assistance of the DC Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy board of directors, I launched a focused teen pregnancy prevention campaign throughout the city.

Although DC teen pregnancy rates have declined, they still exceed the national average. Sixteen percent of all births in the District of Columbia are to women 19 years of age and under – and this trend is even more pronounced among African American girls.

Yet teen pregnancy affects every sector and every neighborhood of our city. The health and skills of our future work force are at stake.

And the economic consequences of teen pregnancy typically include not only welfare expenses, but an impact on the foster care, child health care, juvenile justice and public housing systems.

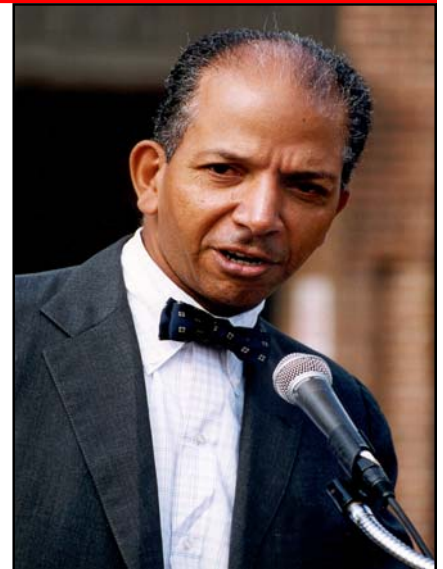
Our mission is to cut teen pregnancy rates in half by 2005. To accomplish this, we must reach out to all segments of the community – parents and concerned adults, religious institutions, private foundations and donors, and elected officials.

We need to help teens feel connected, making sure they have safe places to be and interesting things to do, and giving them a sense of belonging. To do this, we're putting systems in place to recruit positive adults as mentors; encourage parental support for comprehensive, age appropriate family life education as mandated in DC Public Schools; and enlist support from the arts and entertainment community.

In recognition of May as National Teen Pregnancy Prevention month, the District government will offer several workshops around the city. The Family Services Administration, working with DC Public Schools, Planned Parenthood, Concerned Black Men, and the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancies will present a series of educational workshops at Browne Jr. High, Roots Public Charter, Marriott Hospitality Public Charter, Ballou High, Maya Angelou Public Charter, McFarland Middle and Elliot Jr. High Schools.

On May 28, the Fourth Annual International Fatherhood Conference will be held at the Capital Hilton. For more information on these and other National Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month activities, call the Family Services Administration, Teen Parent Assessment Program at (202) 541-3906.

Join our efforts to make teen pregnancy a relic of the past in the District of Columbia. Teen pregnancy is less likely when boys and girls have trustworthy, reliable adults who pay attention to them. Every adult in this city has a role to play in teen pregnancy prevention – starting with you and me.



AGENCY WEBSITES

[Office of Tax and Revenue](#)

[Department of Parks and Recreation](#)

[Department of Employment Services](#)

[Metropolitan Police Department](#)

[Office of Boards and Commissions](#)

[Commission on the Arts and Humanities](#)

[Advisory Neighborhood Commissions](#)

Employee Spotlight

The District Lends a Hand in an Emergency

In a poignant display of one city helping another, engineers from the District's Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (DCRA) found themselves helping to put the roof back on City Hall in La Plata, Maryland, a town that on April 28 was devastated by the second-worst tornado ever to hit the East Coast.

By May 1, crews from the Department of Public Works (DPW), the District Division of Transportation (DDOT), the DC Water and Sewer Authority (WASA), DCRA, and the DC Emergency Management Agency (DCEMA) arrived with equipment to assist with the clean up of La Plata, whose municipal workforce consists of just 40 people, including the City Manager. DCEMA set up a temporary office to help coordinate relief efforts. Crews from DPW and DDOT removed downed trees, opened roadways and took away rubble from damaged properties. WASA sent four dump trucks that also hauled away debris from the affected areas. DC Fire and Emergency Medical Services personnel also pitched in on search and rescue efforts



District employees help out with recovery effort in La Plata, Maryland

La Plata Mayor William Eckman personally greeted and thanked the DC staff for their assistance. Our thanks also go to the following personnel who lent a hand when one was needed: Jim Bullock, Dennis Butler, Curtis Taylor, Michael Stover, Leroy White, Kenneth Willis, Alonzo Ransom, Jarious Smitherman, Keith Jenkins, Roy Wood, Catherine Brown, Robby McNair, Duane McCloud, Bernard McCloud, Daniel Ellis, Paulette Redman, Kevin Maiden, Francis Snyder, William Mozell, Norman Wood, John Mathis, Harvey Falk, Walter Hill, and Belinda Weems from DPW; William Vreeland, Bernard Jackson, Douglas Young, Ricardo Short, Irving Russell, Jeffrey Young, Maxie Pee, John McPhaul, Hakin Sharif-el, Harold Venable, Brian Smoot, Frank Pacifico, Nathan Campbell, John Dodson, and Robert Marsili from DDOT; Brian Hubbard, Kerry Payne, Bill Curry, Jerome Grant, and Kenneth Honick from DCEMA; Larry Carr, Vince Ford, Juan Scott, Abdullahi Barrow, Harry Meyers, Franklin Gaines, Elsie Burchette, Carol Washington, Robert Gary, William Smith, Ronald Duke, Willis Taylor, Leon Weston, Catherine Herbert, and Courtney Brown from DCRA; John Frye, Ralph Williams, Jerome Lee, John Gaines, Seafras Williams, Derrick Langley, Tony Shaw, Kevin Logan, and John Crowder from WASA; Mike Sellitto, Phil Pestone, Mike Coleman, Angie Boddie, Andre Hunter, Rob Leland, John Donnelly, P.M. Troxell, A. Bradford, J. Auth, J. Kelly, M. Cohee, W. Mutchler, L. Chapman, S. Muccino, M. Dolby, R. Morris, C. Potter, R. DeWitt, M. Weber, D. Neiman, L. Armstrong, V. Kyle, C. Maddox, L. Zelonis, S. Jackson, D. Johnson, N. Sanders, C. Walker, and J. Johnson from DC Fire and Emergency Medical Services.

Thank you all for pitching in. Our thoughts and prayers are with the people of La Plata as they continue to rebuild.

A Bird's Eye View of Science

Mayor leads hands-on science adventure at Kingman Island

On May 3, students from Backus Middle School and Leckie, Ketcham, River Terrace, Neval Thomas, and Randle Highlands Elementary Schools learned bird-watching techniques from Mayor Anthony A. Williams at a pilot program of the new Anacostia Islands Young Naturalists Program on Kingman and Heritage Islands in the Anacostia River.

The program is designed to help revitalize the Anacostia River and enhance the environmental education of students in grades four through six. The goal is for each student to spend at least one day taking part in hands-on environmental programs on the island. The students also explore the island's ecology and habitats on foot and by canoe. This program was developed in collaboration with the DC Public Schools, the Mayor, National Geographic Society, DC Department of Parks and Recreation, Anacostia Watershed Society, and Earth Conservation Corps. The environmental education program was dedicated last November as a living memorial to the DC teachers and students and National Geographic Society staff who died in the September 11 terrorist attacks.

"This program will not only help to revitalize the Anacostia River, but it will also teach our young people about the value of our city's natural resources," said Mayor Williams, an avid birder and canoeist.

Vietnamese Community Welcomes Mayor

Mayor Anthony A. Williams received a warm welcome from about 100 Vietnamese residents in the 1500 block of Park Road, NW, at a community walk-through on April 24. The theme of the walk was, "Walking Together to Improve the Community." The Mayor stopped at two Vietnamese grocery stores, an immigrant's home, and the offices of two community organizations.

This was the first visit by a DC mayor to the Vietnamese community since members of the community first arrived in Washington as refugees more than 20 years ago, according to the Office of Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs. Mayor Williams encouraged residents to become more involved in government activities and proceedings.

According to data from the US Census Bureau approximately 2,000 Vietnamese residents live in the District of Columbia, most of whom live in Ward 1. Census data also reveals that the Asian community is one of the fastest growing communities in the District. Ward 1 has the fastest Asian population growth rate within the District, the population having grown by 74%.



LINK TO OTHER WEBSITES

[DC Agenda](#)

[Hands on DC](#)

[DC Convention and Tourism](#)

[DC Public Library](#)

Brooks Mansion Restored as Telecomm Facility

On Saturday, April 27, Mayor Williams and the Public Access Corporation of DC (DCTV) participated in a ribbon-cutting ceremony for Brooks Mansion. The 160-year-old mansion, placed on the Register of Historic Places in 1975, has been restored to house DCTV. The mansion is the oldest landmark in the Brookland neighborhood of Ward 5.

DCTV now operates a state-of-the-art television production facility with three studios, six digital editing suites, all digital field production equipment, and a digital transmission signal that improves picture quality on TV sets.

DCTV is a community-based, not-for-profit, First Amendment Center that provides grassroots access to communications technology to all DC residents. DCTV trains its members to develop and produce high quality programs for telecasting on channels assigned to DCTV for public access. These are Channels 25 (District Cablevision), 10, and 11.

Volunteers create all the programming for public access channels, help telecast programming, and help staff deliver services to the community. They contribute more than 95,000 hours to bring programming to the public. DCTV telecasts more than 4,500 hours of programs on the public access channels, most of which is new programming.

District Activities



Mayor Williams celebrates groundbreaking for the new Turkey Thicket Recreation Center facility and gymnasium at 10th Street and Michigan Avenue, NE.



The Sixth Annual Senior Fashion Show looks like fun!



Mayor Williams addresses hundreds of cyclists who biked to work on May 3 as part of DC Bike to Work Day.



Mayor Williams provides DC students with bird-watching tips as they participate in the Anacostia Young Naturalist Program on Kingman Island.

Community News

- [Mayor Williams Proclaims May 4 "School Safety Patrol Day"](#)
- [Gallery Place Project Receives \\$73.6 Million Tax Increment Financing](#)
- [Resolution Reached On Giant Food Expansion](#)

[Click here](#) to view releases.



Upcoming Events

05/15	Ward 7 Monthly Meeting Marshall Heights Community Development 3900 Benning Road, NE 7:00 pm
05/18	Mayor's Spring Book Fling Anacostia Park 1800 Block of Anacostia Drive, SE 10:00 pm - 3:00 pm
05/30	Ward 8 Senior Town Hall Meeting Senior Wellness Center 3500 Martin Luther King Avenue, SE 11:30 am - 2:00 pm
06/01	Race for the Cure Washington Monument Grounds Constitution Avenue & 17th Street, NW 7:00 am
06/04	Ward 5 Michigan Park Citizens Association Bunker Hill Elementary School 1400 Michigan Avenue, NE 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

[Click here](#) to view Mayor's daily schedule.

